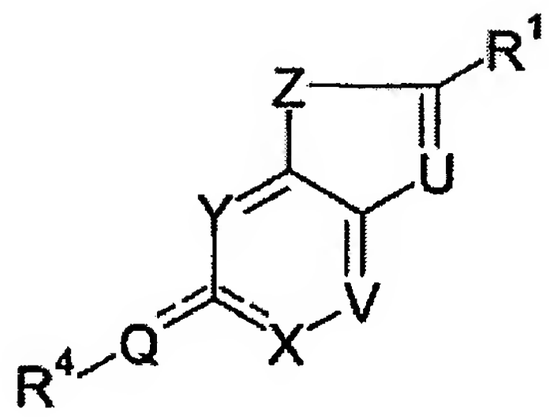
In the Claims:

1. (Original) A chemical compound having the formula (I):



wherein:

R^1 and R^4 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, alkenyl and alkynyl;

Z is selected from O, NH, S, Se, NR^5 and $(CH_2)_n$ where n is 1 to 10, and CT_2 where T may be the same or different and is selected from hydrogen, alkyl and halogens, and R^5 is alkyl, alkenyl or aryl;

Y is selected from N, CH and CR^6 where R^6 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl;

Q is selected from O, S, NH, N-alkyl, CH_2, CHalkyl and $C(alkyl)_2$;

U is selected from N and CR^2, R^2 is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, cyano, alkoxy, aryloxy, thiol, alkylthiol, arylthiol and aryl;

V is selected from N and CR^3, where R^3 is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, halogens, alkyloxy, aryloxy and aryl; and

when a double bond exists between X and the ring atom to which Q is attached and Q is linked to the ring moiety by a single bond, X is selected from N, CH and CR^7, where R^7 is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alknyl and aryl; and

when a double bond links Q to the ring moiety and a single bond exists between X and the ring atom to which Q is attached, R^4 does not exist and X is NR^8, where R^8 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl, except that when Y is N, R^8 is not an alkyl or alkenyl group substituted at the fourth atom of the chain of said alkyl or alkenyl group, counted along the shortest route away from the ring moiety including any heteroatom present in said chain, by a member selected from OH, phosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, phosphonate, diphosphonate, triphosphonate, and pharmacologically acceptable salts, derivatives and prodrugs thereof;

and pharmacologically acceptable salts, derivatives and prodrugs of compounds of formula I.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein when a double bond exists between X and the ring atom to which Q is attached, X and Y are both N.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein when a double bond exists between X and the ring atom to which Q is attached, Z is O or NH, preferably O.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein when a double bond exists between X and the ring atom to which Q is attached, Q is O.

5. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X and Y are N, Q and Z are independently selected from O, S and NH, and preferably both Q and Z are O.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~ wherein each of U and V is CH.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~ wherein R^1 is selected from C_{3-20}alkyl, C_{3-20}cycloalkyl, C_{3-20}alkenyl, C_{3-20}alkynyl, C_{5-14}aryl and C_{1-10}alkylC_{5-14}aryl, preferably C_{3-14}alkyl, C_{3-14}alkenyl and C_{3-14}alkynyl, more preferably C_{8-10}alkyl, C_{8-10}alkenyl and C_{8-10}alkynyl.

8. (Original) A compound according to claim 7 wherein R^1 is unbranched and unsubstituted C_{3-}

$_{12}$alkyl, preferably C_{6-10}alkyl.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~anyone of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~ wherein each of R^4 and R^8 is selected from C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkenyl, C_{1-12}alkynyl, C_{3-12}cycloalkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{5-14}aryl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl and C_{5-14}aryl containing 1, 2, 3 or 4 hetero ring atoms independently selected form O, N and S, preferably R^4 and R^8 are selected from C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{1-10}alkenyl and C_{1-10}alkynyl.

10. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~ wherein R^1 is C_{3-14} alkyl, C_{3-14} alkenyl or C_{3-14} alkenyl, preferably C_{6-14} alkyl, C_{6-14} alkenyl or C_{6-14} alkynyl, and R^4 and R^8 are selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, preferably C_{5-6} ~~allkyl~~ alkyl or C_{5-6} cycloalkyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 9~~ wherein R^1 is C_{10} alkyl.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 11~~ wherein R^4 and R^8 are selected from benzyl or substituted benzyl.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 10~~ wherein R^4 and R^8 are C_1 alkyl substituted with C_{1-10} cycloalkyl, preferably C_1 alkyl substituted with C_{5-6} cycloalkyl.

14. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X and Y are both N, U and V are both CH, Z and Q are independently selected from O, S and NH, and each of R^1, R^4 and R^8 are C_{8-12} alkyl.

15. (Original) A compound selected from the group comprising:

6-Butyl-3-cyclopentyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (139) [Cf2158]

6-Butyl-2-cyclopentyloxy-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine (130) [Cf2159]

6-Heptyl-3-cyclopentyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (140) [Cf2160]

6-Heptyl-2-cyclopentyloxy-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine (141) [Cf2161]

6-Butyl-3-(1-ethyl-propyl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (142) [Cf2194]

6-Butyl-2-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine (143) [Cf2193]

6-Heptyl-3-(1-ethyl-propyl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (144) [Cf2190]

6-Heptyl-2-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine (145) [Cf2189]

6-Butyl-3-pentyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (146) [Cf2195]

6-Butyl-2-pentyloxy-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine (147) [Cf2327]

6-Heptyl-3-pentyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (148) [Cf2192]

6-Heptyl-3-pentyloxy-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (149) [Cf2191]

6-Heptyl-3-(tetrahydro-furan-2-yl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one (154) [Cf2196]

6-Decyl-2-propoxy-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2303

6-Decyl-3-propyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2304

2-Butoxy-6-decyl-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2305

3-Butyl-6-decyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2306

6-Decyl-2-pentyloxy-2,3-dihydrofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2247

2-Cyclopentyloxy-6-decyl-2,3-dihydrofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2250

3-Cyclopentyl-6-decyl-2,3-dihydrofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2251

2-(1'-Ehtyl-propyloxy)-6-decyl-2,3-dihydrofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2252

3-(1'-Ethyl-propyl)-6-decyl-2,3-dihydrofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2253

2-Cyclohexyloxy-6-decyl-2,3-dihydrofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2294

3-Cyclohexyl-6-decyl-2,3-dihydrofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2295

6-Decyl-3-(tetrahydro-fruan-2-ylmethyl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one 72 Cf2309

2-Cyclohexylmethoxy-6-decyl-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2274

3-Cyclohexylmethyl-6-decyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2275

2-Benzyloxy-6-decyl-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2307

3-Benzyl-6-decyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2308

6-Decyl-3-(tetrahydro-furan-2'-yl)-2,3-dihyrdofuro[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2249

6-Decyl-2-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine 58

6-Decyl-3-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yl)- 3*H*-furo]2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2276

6-Decyl-2-(tetrahydro-furan-2-ylmethoxy)-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine 71

6-Decyl-3-(tetrahydro-furan-2-ylmethyl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one 72

6-Decyl-2-(tetrahydro-pyran-2-ylmethoxy)-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine 61

6-Decyl-3-(tetrahydro-pyran-2-ylmethyl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one 62

6-Decyl-2-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2315

6-Decyl-3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2316

6-Decyl-2-(4-methylbenzyloxy)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2313

6-Decyl-3-(4-methylbenzyl)-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2314

6-Hexyl-3-methyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2344

2-Butyloxy-6-hexyl-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2346

2-Benzyloxy-6-hexyl-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine Cf2348

3-Benzyl-6-hexyl-3*H*-furo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidin-2-one Cf2349.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing compounds according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~ wherein a 5-halo nucleoside analogue is contacted with a terminal alkyne in the presence of a catalyst, or a 5-alkynyl nucleoside is cyclised in the presence of a catalyst.

17. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~ for use in a method of treatment.

18. (Currently Amended) Use of a compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis or treatment of viral infection.

19. (Original) Use according to claim 18 wherein the viral infection is a cytomegalovirus viral infection.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of prophylaxis or treatment of viral infection comprising administration to a patient in need of such treatment an effective dose of a compound according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20 wherein the viral infection is a cytomegalovirus viral infection.

22. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the prophylaxis or treatment of a viral infection.

23. (Original) A compound according to claim 22 wherein the viral infection is a cytomegalovirus viral infection.

24. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~ in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the step of combining a compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~ with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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